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16. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 2, wherein said fastener is made from shaped wire having a gauge between about 16 and about 14.

17. (new) A reinforcement system according to claim 14, wherein said fasteners are clips.

18. (new) A reinforcement system according to claim 14, wherein the length of said second prong is no more than about 99% of the length of said bridge portion.

19. (new) A reinforcement system according to claim 17, wherein each of said clips has a bridge portion having a length between about 3/16 inch and about 15/16 inch.

20. (new) A reinforcement system according to claim 17, wherein each of said clips has a bridge portion having a length of about 1/2 inch.

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment is in response to the office action mailed August 9, 2004 and further to the amendment filed September 24, 2004 for the above-identified patent application.

On behalf of Applicant, the undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the telephone interview of October 7, 2004.

As discussed in the telephone interview, independent claim 4 is directed to one embodiment having the dimensions claimed. Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the dimensions of claim 4. Lastly, as also discussed, independent claims 2, 3 and 14 are amended to cover a reinforcement system of wire lath and fasteners.

Amended Claims 2, 3 and 14 Directed to System of Wire Lath and Fasteners

None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 2 directed to a reinforcement system for fastening to a substrate comprising wire lath and a plurality of fasteners, in which each fastener has a first prong, second prong, and bridge, wherein the second prong has a length between about 25% and about 45% of

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the length of the first prong and bends to hold the wire lath between the second prong and bridge, thus spacing the wire lath a predetermined distance from the substrate. Claim 2 as amended is supported in original paragraphs [0010] – [0012], [0021], [0022] and [0033]. No new matter is added.

None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 3 directed to a reinforcement system for fastening to a substrate comprising wire lath and a plurality of fasteners, in which each fastener has a first prong, second prong, and bridge portion, wherein the second prong has a length between about 75% and about 99% of the length of the bridge portion and bends to hold the wire lath between the second prong and bridge portion, thus spacing the wire lath from the substrate. Claim 3 as amended is supported in paragraphs [0010] – [0012], [0021], [0022] and [0033]. No new matter is added.

Claims 5, 6, and 7 are patentable for the same reasons as claim 2 plus additional limitations. Please see the Amendment filed September 24, 2004. No new matter is added.

None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 14 directed to a reinforcement system for fastening to a substrate comprising a wire lath and a plurality of fasteners, in which each fastener has a first prong, second prong, and bridge, wherein the second prong has a length of at least about 75% of the length of the first prong, and bends to hold the wire lath between the second prong and bridge portion, thus spacing the wire lath from the substrate. Claim 14 as amended is supported in original paragraphs [0010] – [0012], [0021], [0022] and [0033]. No new matter is added.

Claim 10 Amended to Incorporate Limitations of Claim 4

None of the prior art references teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 10 directed to a strip of fasteners connected together with each fastener having a bridge portion, a first prong and a second prong, wherein the bridge portion has a length of about ½ inch, a first prong has a length of about 1-1/4 inch and a second prong has a length of

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about 7/16 inch. Claim 10 as amended is supported in paragraphs [0010], [0021], [0022], and [0023]. No new matter is added.

Claims 11, 12 and 13 are patentable for the same reasons as amended claim 10, plus additional limitations. Please see the Amendment filed September 24, 2004. No new matter is added.

New Claims 17-20

New claim 17 is added to claim a reinforcement system according to amended claim 14 having fasteners that are clips.

New claim 18 is added to claim a reinforcement system according to amended claim 14 having a second prong having a length of no more than about 99% of the length of the bridge portion.

New claim 19 is added to claim a reinforcement system according to amended claim 17 wherein each clip has a bridge having a length between about 3/16 inch and about 15/16 inch.

New claim 19 is added to claim a reinforcement system according to amended claim 17 wherein each clip has a bridge having a length of about 1/2 inch.

Support for new claims 17 - 20 is found in the specification as follows:

claim 17.....paragraph [0010].

claim 18.....paragraphs [0021] and [0022].

claim 19.....paragraph [0022].

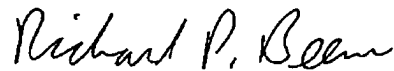
claim 20.....paragraph [0022].

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated this 11th day of October, 2004.



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